AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Nature, Situation, Natural Strength, and Antient, and Modern Fortifications, of the ſeveral Cities and Garriſon-Towns in

IRELAND;

That are ſtill Poſſeſſed by the Forces of the

Late King James;

Their Diſtances from *Dublin*, and each from the other: With the ſeveral Approaches by which they may be Attack't.

Alſo, a Scenographical Diſcription of the Famous River

SHANNON,

On which Stands Thoſe Two Strong Places

Limmerick, and Athlone:

The former of which is Beſieged by His Majeſty in Perſon, the latter by Lieutenant General *Douglaſs*.

By an Iriſh Officer, who ſerved in the Army under the Late Duke of Ormond.

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An Account of the City, Port, Garriſon, and Fortifications of

LIMERICK.

THIS City is the biggeſt in *Ireland*, except *Dublin*; its Haven lies on the Weſt-ſide of *Ireland*, and South of *Galway*; It divideth the Province of *Connaught* from *Munſter*, being of a great length, no leſs than ſixty Miles; for ſo far it is from the mouth of the Haven to the City of *Limerick*, to whoſe Walls Merchant-men of great Burthen, or Third, and Fourth Rate Frigats may goe up, without meeting with any thing elſe in all that way, ſave a number of little Iſles, but not any foul Places, Rocks or Sands.

This Harbour is nothing elſe but a great Lough (half way its length growing ſome-what narrow, but immediately inlarging it ſelf again into greater breadth) whereinto the River *Shannon*, (upon whoſe Banks *Limerick* is ſituated) diſchargeth it ſelf a little way below the ſaid City; although the *Engliſh* and the *Iriſh* both call it the *Shannon*, all the way until the Sea, as it were not a Lough into which the River falleth, but the River it ſelf thus enlarged. This City, as aforeſaid, ſtanding on the Banks of the *Shannon*, which encompaſſeth it ſo about that its a perfect Iſland, by which means its very ſtrong by Nature; it's alſo Fortified with a very high ſtrong Wall, on which are ſeveral Baſtions and Redoubts; alſo, three ſpacious Gates, well-built with curious Stone, *viz.* St. *John's* Gate, St. *Peter's* Gate, and the New-Gate.

Theſe Gates give the Name to the Three Principal Streets in the City, on which are good Stone-Buildings: It hath alſo a Caſtle and Bridge, *viz.* King's Caſtle, and *Thomand*-Bridge, Pieces of great Strength and Beauty, though very Ancient, being of the Foundation of King *John*, who was exceedingly delighted with the Situation. Its diſtant from *Dublin* eighty four Miles, from *Cork* thirty ſeven Miles, and from *Galway* thirty ſix.

GALWAY.

THE Haven of this City is the moſt conſiderable in the Province of *Connaught*, being a very great Bay, ſome Miles broad, and many more long, having in the Mouth three Iſlands, (called the Iſles of *Arran*) the which lye *North* and *South* by the ſide of each other, there remaining the Channels for to come out of the Sea into this Bay. One Channel runeth betwixt the Land and the Northern Iſle, and called therefore *North-Sound*: The ſecond between the ſame Northern Iſland and the middle-moſt; which Channel being the moſt uſual of the Three, is commonly ſtiled St. *Gregory's Sound*; and the third between the moſt Southermoſt Iſland and the Mane, named *South-Sound*; the Channel betwixt the Southern and the middle-moſt Iſland not being paſſable, by reaſon of the Sands and Shelves, wherefore the Name of *Half-Sound* hath been given unto it.

The whole North-ſide of this Bay is very foul with Sands and Rocks, ſo as one may not approach the Shoar in a great way; at the end of which Sand, and in the innermoſt part of the Bay, lyeth a little Iſland, called *Mutton-Iſland*, at the Eaſt-ſide whereof, one may Anchor in five or ſix Fathoms of Water; but from thence Northwards, until the City of *Galway*, which is the ſpace of two or three Miles, none but little Veſſels and Barks can go, the City ſtanding not on the Bay it ſelf, but on a broad Water like a River, the which not far from *Galway* coming out of a great Lake, called *Lough Corbes*, diſchargeth it ſelf into the Bay a little above *Mutten-Iſle*.

This City is the principal of the Province of *Connaught*, both for Beauty, Strength and Trade; its invironed with a very ſtrong Wall, the beſt in all *Ireland*, on which is a Counterſcarp, Baſtion, and other Fortifications; and its no leſs ſtrong within it ſelf, the Houſes being built very regular with Stone, with Battlements at the top, for Guns to be Planted. Its diſtant from *Dublin* eighty five Miles, and from *Athlone* thirty ſix Miles.

ATHLONE.

THIS Town is the greateſt Paſs from *Dublin* to *Connaught*, and ſo to *Leinſter*: it's a place that is but ſmall, yet of very great Strength, the River *Shannon* running through it, like *London* and *Southwark*; its joyned by a ſtately Stone-Bridge, on which are Fortifications, built at the charge of Queen *Elizabeth*, and repaired in the Year 1663. On that part of the Town that is in *Connaught* ſtands a great Caſtle, regularly Fortified according to the modern way by K. *Charles* the II. a little after his Reſtauration, with the addition of a high mud Wall round that part of the Town, and ſeveral other new Works hath been lately made here by the order of King *James*. Its diſtant from *Dublin* forty nine Miles.

KING-SALE.

THE Haven of this Town is one of the moſt Famouſeſt of all *Ireland*; Ships of great Burthen may Sail into it, keeping in the midſt of the Channel, without any danger, either without, or in the Mouth of the Harbour, except a blind Rock cloſe to the Eaſt-Poiut: Within the Haven, on the Weſt-ſide, lyeth a great Shelf, which ſhooteth a great way off from the Land, but leaving a very large Paſſage along by the ſide of it, in which, as in all the reſt of the Harbour, it is many Fathoms deep. This Haven for ſome Miles goeth in N. N. Eaſt, but afterwards turneth Weſt-ward, until the Key of *Kingſale*, where Ships may Ride in 8 or 9 Fathoms of Water, being defended of all Winds: The Town ſtands upon the Mouth of the River *Bany*; and at ſome diſtance from it ſtands a curious Cittadel; (which coſt K. *Charles* the II. 80 Thouſand Pound the Erecting;) its of great Security to the Port ſo that no Force can attack it, either by Sea or Land, without great hazard and danger: The Town is well Fortified by Land, having a Wall, and ſeveral Works on it, but its commanded by the adjacent Hills, particularly by one Hill that is exact againſt their great Fort, which renders the place uncapable of holding out a Siege. Its diſtant from *Dublin* 127 Miles, from *Limerik* 46.

CORK.

THE Haven of this City ſtands Ten Miles to the Eaſtward of *Kin-ſale*, the which goeth in N. N. Eaſt, being within large and wide, runing a great way into the Land; for the City (until whoſe Key this Haven is very clean and deep) is ſeated many miled from the Sea, and from the Mouth of the Harbour.

The City is but ſmall, conſiſting chiefly of one large Street, reaching out in length, but very populous: It is the only thoroughfare of all Engliſh Goods and Commodities (as they term them) namely, rich Broad Cloaths, Stuffs, and Linnen, Fruits, Spices, *&c.* Sent moſt commonly this way out of *England*, for thoſe two remarkable Port-Towns of *Limmerick* and *Galoway*; it is Fortified with a very good Wall, and curious Stone-Bridge, on which are ſeveral Works, and being environed with Water; were it not for the Hills near it, which over looks the City, (in the ſame nature as at *Kin-ſale*) it might be made a place Impregnable, but the Hills has ſuch a command of it, that a Battery from thence, would Beat the the Town about the Ears of the Garriſon: It is diſtant from *Dublin* One Hundred and Sixteen Miles, from *Limmerick* Thirty Six Miles.

WATERFORD.

THIS Haven is Situated on the Confines of *Leniſter* and *Munſter*, and runneth ſeven, or eight Miles into the Land, not Winding or Crooked, or with any great Inlets or Nookes, but almoſt in a ſtreight Line (extending it ſelf *North*, *North-Weſt*) and in moſt parts of an equal Breadth, all the way Deep and Clear, having no Rocks nor Sands: Without the Harbour, it is Eleven, or Twelve Fathoms Deep; in the Mouth Seven and more; inwards Six Fathoms. Within the Eſterly corner is a good Road, in Four, or Five Fathoms; and on the other, or Weſterly ſide, Five or Six Miles from the Mouth, is an other good Road, very Commodious, as well for thoſe Ships that go fourth, as thoſe that will Sail upwards to *Waterford*. Upon the *Eaſt* ſide, about half way the length,

length, lyeth a very ſtrong Fort and Caſtle, called *Duncannon*, (Built much in the Nature of that at *Tilbury*, againſt *Graves-End*) and ſo commandeth the Harbour, that no Ships can go up or down againſt the will of the Fort: This Haven in the end divideth it ſelf into two Armes; both a great deal Inferiour to the principal Harbour; The City is Scituated ſome four or five Miles from that Diviſion, a little below the place where the River Shoure falleth into this Harbour: And thô it ſtands at a reaſonable good diſtance off from the Main Sea, yet Ships of the greateſt Burthen may ſafely Sail to, and Ride at Anchor before the Key thereof, the Fortifycations of this Place are not very conſiderable, having but an indifferent Wall round it, with a ſmall Fort, but it's very ſtrong by Sea, on the account of the Fort of *Duncannon*.

CLONMEL.

THIS Town is in the County of *Typperary*, and Scituated on the River ſhoure about Twenty Miles above *Waterford*, from whence it's Paſſible to it, by Veſſels of ſmall Burthen; this Place is Naturally Fortyfied, ſtanding on an Advantagious ground, very hard to be Attackt; beſides, it's Invironed with a very good VVall and Caſtle of great ſtrength. This Place made a reſolute Defence againſt *Oliver Cromwel*, *Ano Dom.* 1649. who endeavoring to get it by Storm, the Garriſon beat his Souldiers twice from the Breaches, and at laſt Surrendred on Honourable Conditions, it's Sixty Six Miles from *Dublin*.

The River SHANNON.

BEſides the exceſſive number of Brooks, wherewith *Ireland* is VVatered; it hath a great many Rivers, the which being Broader and Deeper then the Brooks, are conſequently navigable; althô the Major part are not portable of any great Ships, but only of ſmall Veſſels.

The principaleſt of all is the *Shannon*, who taking her original out of Lough-*Allen*, and in her

courſe

course dividing the Province of *Connaught* from *Leinster*, and afterwards also from *Munster*, passeth through two other great Loughs, to wit, Lough-*Ree*, whereout she cometh just above *Athlone*, and Lough-*Dergh*, about half-way betwixt *Athlone* and *Limerick*; and a little below the said Town, she dischargeth herself again into another Lough, by far the biggest of all, the which extending it self from *Limerick* into the Sea, which is 60 Miles. And above 60 Miles from *Athlone* it is held by the *Irish*, as well as the *English*, not for a Lough, but for the *Shannon* it self; so that its whole length is 120 Miles.

This River is wide and deep every where, so as she would be Navigable in her whole length, not only with small Vessels, but with Ships of large Burthen, to the great advantage of them that inhabit next it, were it not for the impediment of a certain Rock within 8 Miles of *Athlone*, the which standeth a cross in the Channel, and the River with great violence falling downwards over it, all communication of Navigation betwixt the upper and lower parts of it is thereby absolutely hindred. It was proposed to the Earl of *Stafford*, when Lord Deputy, by certain *Dutch* Ingineers, That for the Sum of 8000 *l. Sterling*, they would in that place cut a new Channel. A Sum not very considerable, in comparison of the great profit which afterwards would have accrued from that Work; but the Rebellion ensuing, it was never taken in hand to this day.

But its now hoped, that upon the happy Settlement of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, under the Benign Government of Their August Majesties, King *William* and Queen *Mary*, this advantagious Work may be performed.

FINIS.

CAtastrophe Galliæ, & Hiberniæ Restitutio. *An Impartial Judgment, Denoting the Reduction of* Ireland *this Revolution* 90. (*ending* March *the* 10*th.* 1691.) *Also, The Conquering of* Lewis *the* XIV. *present King of* France, *by His Sacred Majesty King* WILLIAM *the* III. *in a few Years. Prophetically deduced from the Characters of Heaven.*

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